

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

This amendment is submitted in response to a telephone interview initiated by Examiner Nguyen on May 27, 2004. The Examiner noted that the title and the section of application describing the field of the invention both refer to a method. However, the Examiner correctly noted that the application did not include method claims. Accordingly, the Examiner required an amendment to the title and to the first paragraph of the application.

The amendments required by the Examiner have been entered.

Counsel also noted that the application was filed with the reference numerals in the claims in accordance with prefer European practice. The assignee of this invention prefers that its U.S. applications issue without reference numerals. As a result, the claims have been amended to eliminate the reference numerals. The elimination of reference numeral is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability.

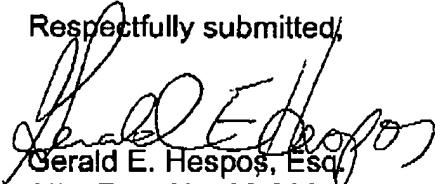
The Examiner noted that the claims of the subject application are similar to the claims of the assignee's U.S. Patent No. 6,702,627. Accordingly, the Examiner required a Terminal Disclaimer.

This amendment is submitted with an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer. Please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 03-1030 for the fees associated with this Terminal Disclaimer.

The Examiner also stated her opinion that the claims of this application would be obvious over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,627, U.S. Patent No. 6,655,999 and U.S. Patent No. 5,378,176. As discussed during the interview, this application is assigned to Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd. as indicated by an assignment document recorded with the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 14228, Frame 703. All three references cited by the Examiner also are assigned to Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd. Additionally, U.S. Patent No. 6,702,627 and U.S. Patent No. 6,655,999 were not published more than one year prior to the earliest effective date of the subject application. Accordingly, it is believed that the subject application receives the benefit of 35 USC 103(c) and neither U.S. Patent No. 6,702,627 nor U.S. Patent No. 6,655,999 qualify as a basis for a rejection under 35 USC 103.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks and in view of the attached Terminal Disclaimer, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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